

**MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013, AT 5:30 P.M., IN THE CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 775 NORTH MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Rankin, Smith, Celaya, Hawkins, Montañó, Walter, Woolridge

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**For the purpose of discussion of the public body to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney on pending and threatened claim received from Curis Resources (Arizona) Inc. in accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(4).**

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded Vice-Mayor Smith, and carried to adjourn to Executive Session.

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilmember Montañó, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn from Executive Session.

**INVOCATION PERFORMED BY REVEREND DONALD WOOLRIDGE, UNION BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Reverend Donald Woolridge, Union Baptist Church, performed the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Woolridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comment to three minutes. Individual Councilmembers may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of Council shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.**

Ms. Elizabeth Kizer, 3634 N. Balboa Drive, Florence Arizona, provided an update on the food environment assessment that she has conducted in the Town. She said throughout January and the first week in February, she facilitated three community

meetings and attended the Library's Coffee Club meeting. Ms. Kizer said 31 people attended the four meetings and 26 individuals have opted to stay connected to the Food Environment Coalition. She said discussion points at the meetings included:

- Why did you attend the meeting?
  - o Attended out of curiosity
  - o Wanted to support the project
  - o Believe healthy eating is important
  
- What is the number one change that you would like to see in the Florence food environment?
  - o Existing healthy choices are too expensive
  - o Increased access to fresh produce and whole grains at a reasonable cost
  - o Local restaurants to support healthy choices
  - o More local production of produce
  
- What does healthy food mean to you?
  - o Staying away from fast food
  - o Preparing meals at home
  - o Quality of products/low sodium/whole grain/total carbs
  - o No chemicals/preservative free
  - o Gluten free
  - o Fresh, raw, unprocessed food
  - o Organic or as close to nature as possible
  - o Medicinal purposes
  
- How far do you have to drive to get healthy food?
  - o Few did their shopping and eating in the Town of Florence
    - Were primarily seniors who had limited transportation
  - o Travel to other communities in Pinal and Maricopa County to purchase their food at least once per week
  - o Travel between 12-50 miles one way to purchase healthy food
  - o Would prefer to keep their dollars in Town but there are no cost effective options for them

Ms. Kizer said the next step in the assessment is to make a community survey available to anyone who lives or works in Florence to gauge the community's interest in the various options. The survey will be available electronically, and printable versions will be available at the Senior Center and Library. She requested to add the link to the Town's website. She said you can also email her for the link.

Ms. Karen Wall, 3727 N. Monument Drive, Florence, Arizona, said the Council is meeting in Executive Session to discuss the \$140 million claim against the Town by Curis Resources. She represents 250 grassroots community members and they are all in support and appreciate all the Council has done to defend the General Plan and prevent the Florence Copper Project from destroying it. She said they encourage the

Council to stay strong and maintain their positions. She thanked the Council for all they do for the community.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Public Hearing and Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of forwarding a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on Rodney Herbert's (Reay's Ranch Investors L.L.C) application for a New Series 10 Liquor License located at the future Super Stop location of 649 N. Pinal Parkway, Florence Arizona.**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the Clerk's Office received an application for the site located between McDonald's and Sonic. The site was posted and remained posted for twenty days. The Clerk's Office did not receive any comments. She said a copy of the application was sent to the Police Department to see if there were any concerns on their behalf. The Police Department, along with the Clerk's Office is forwarding a favorable recommendation to the Council.

Mayor Rankin opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Rankin would like to receive comments from GEO, as their property borders Rodney Herbert's property.

Mayor Rankin closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Celaya, and carried to forward a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on Rodney Herbert's (Reay's Ranch Investors L.L.C) application for a New Series 10 Liquor License located at the future Super Stop location of 649 N. Pinal Parkway, Florence Arizona.

**Presentation of a Service Award to Laura Carter (Feliz) for 15 years of dedicated service to the Town of Florence.**

Mayor Rankin recognized Laura Carter for her dedication and service to the community and to the Senior Center. He said the Senior Center is successful because of her efforts.

Mr. Ray Hartzel, Parks and Recreation Director, said Ms. Carter is extremely dedicated to the Town and committed to the Senior Center. He commended her for all that she does for the Senior Center.

**CONSENT: All items indicated by an (\*) will be handled by a single vote as part of the consent agenda, unless a Councilmember or a member of the public objects at the time the agenda item is called.**

**\*Approval of accepting the register of demands ending January 31, 2013, in the amount of \$1,688,424.95.**

**\*Approval of entering into an extended Ground Lease Agreement with Pulte Home Corporation, Inc., for continued use as the Town of Florence Fire Station Number 2.**

**\*Adoption of Resolution No. 1381-13: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING MAYOR TOM RANKIN, TOWN MANAGER CHARLES A. MONTOYA, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR BECKI GUILIN, TO ACT AS SIGNATORIES FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE TRUST FUND AT NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**\*Adoption of Resolution No. 1382-13: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING MAYOR TOM RANKIN, TOWN MANAGER CHARLES A. MONTOYA, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR BECKI GUILIN, TO ACT AS SIGNATORIES FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS ON ALL TOWN OF FLORENCE BANK ACCOUNTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**\*Authorization to forward a favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control regarding the Anthem at Merrill Ranch Community Council's application for a Special Event Liquor License on March 16, 2013, for an event known as Paladian Sports Outreach.**

**\*Approve the appointment of Damon Anderson to the Florence Industrial Development Authority Board, with a term to expire December 31, 2013.**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Montañó, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Manager's Report**

- Department Reports**
- Community Development**
- Courts**
- Finance**
- Fire**
- Library**
- Parks and Recreation**
- Police**
- Public Works**

Mr. Charles Montoya, Town Manager, asked Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director to provide an update on ADOT and the road closures in Florence.

Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, explained that ADOT was instructed by the Attorney General to provide immediate action on SH79 to northbound 79. The closure is similar to what ADOT conducted in March 2012.

Mr. Costa said ADOT did a hard closure starting on February 15, 2013. They anticipate funding in 2016 to provide permanent improvements in the form of a "T" intersection or roundabout. The alternate route is similar to what they did before. The alternate route will go north on Main Street and turn east on Butte Avenue and onto SH287. It will go through three school crossings and two streetlights. He said an advance warning was placed at Cactus Forest Road as another alternate route to Coolidge.

Mr. Costa said there is no change in the left turn lane on Florence Heights Road. The left turn lane was added during the temporary closure and will remain in place. The Town is concerned because it is only a storage lane with no taper that leads into the left turn lane. The Town is also concerned about right angle collisions on SH79 with traffic exiting from Florence Heights Road westbound onto SH79 northbound on the east end of Florence Heights Road, as it creates a safety issue. He said there is a lot of undulation or rutting of Butte Road taking place in the passing lane, both eastbound and westbound. ADOT's history, in accordance with maintenance on that segment of road, including the intersection of Main and Butte, has not been done very well in the past. There are also concerns about the cross over traffic on the west side of Florence Heights to get onto SH287.

Mr. Costa said Fire Chief Duran and Police Chief Hughes also expressed concerns about response times with regards to emergency services.

Mr. Costa said that the Public Works Department has done or will be doing the following:

- Has done structural repairs to the road
- Shouldering to assist with Florence Heights Road remediation
- Improving the school crossings by adding additional signage
- Adding a ladder type school crossing at the two locations on Florence Heights Road
- Installing caution signs on both the east and west side of Florence Heights Road to address the crossover transitional traffic onto SH287
- Evaluating the type of surface that will provide a scrub seal or a better wearing course on Florence Heights Road for this temporary detour that will occur
- Will stripe Florence Heights Road

Mr. Costa said the detour will cause the Town to review the design of Florence Heights Road with the intersection of 79 on the east side because they are not taking out the left turn lane. It is problematic for the Town because it doesn't align with the realignment of Florence Heights Road to provide a proper tangent or a 90 degree turn on to SH79.

Mayor Rankin asked that the Council be provided a copy of the survey that ADOT did.

Mr. Costa said that it is his understanding that ADOT will present the survey to Council at the March 4, 2013, Town Council meeting.

Mr. Montoya said that Council passed a resolution regarding the Sun Corridor MPO, allowing staff to work with Casa Grande, Eloy, Pinal County, and Coolidge, as long as the San Tan Valley and the Superstition Vistas project were incorporated within the MPO. Over the past several weeks, there have been some significant facts that have come out, which includes, that as of the 2010 Census, the State along with the Federal Government have agreed that the San Tan Valley is part of MAG, and is not sitting there alone and can be incorporated into the Sun Corridor MPO.

Mr. Montoya said for San Tan Valley to get out of MAG, 75% of the organizations within MAG would have to vote for them to get out and then they would have to apply to get into the Sun Corridor MPO. Staff needs to come back before Council for additional direction that would be to: continue and move forward to be part of the Sun Corridor MPO, to consider going into MAG, to do nothing, or to stay with CAG. He is requesting a special meeting on Monday, February 25, 2013.

Councilmember Montaña said on Attaway Road, approximately ¼ mile south of Hunt Highway, Public Works has barricades next to a drop off that is very close to the edge of the road. He inquired if staff is looking at fixing that area or developing it.

Mr. Costa stated the barricades are for a guard rail that hasn't been completed. Clear distances need to be evaluated before the design is finalized. He said it is to protect from drop off into the ditch in that area.

Councilmember Montaña inquired if there is a time frame when this will occur.

Mr. Costa stated that he will get back to the design because it requires a tapered section at the south end and a curved section on the north end.

The Department Reports were received and filed.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

## **CALL TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilmember Walter congratulated Laura Carter for 15 years with the Town. She said that she was very proud of the Police Department when she read the report stating that Florence has achieved the ranking of 17<sup>th</sup> safest city in America. She said on February 24, 2013, Pauline Weaver and the Mountain Men of the West will be at the Pinal County Historical Museum.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that Florence lost a long time community member, Valree Neal. Ms. Neal's services will be Saturday, February 23, 2013, at 11:00 am, at the Presbyterian Church. She offered her condolences to the family.

Councilmember Celaya thanked the volunteers that assisted with the Home Tour.

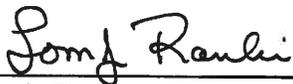
Councilmember Montaño said the Florence High School Basketball Team went to the State Play-offs. They lost in the first round by two points, but they gave a good fight. He is proud of our high school teams.

Vice-Mayor Smith thanked all of the volunteers and staff who assisted with the Home Tour. He said the Tom Mix car brought a lot of people to our community.

Mayor Rankin also offered his condolences to the Neal family. He said Ms. Neal was very active at the Senior Center. Caliente is having their Spring Fling event this weekend. Little League sign-up has started and they are looking for volunteers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Smith, seconded Councilmember Walter, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.



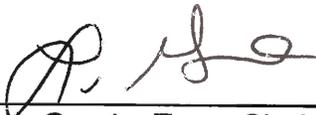
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

#### **ATTEST:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on February 19, 2013, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk